Stan Seeds earns MMR 318

Many MMR dossiers start with the memory of a Lionel train in the writer's youth. Not Stan's. He didn't have an electric train as a young boy, much as he wanted one. Maybe his fascination today is the fulfillment of a suppressed desire.

His first model was a Varney 4-6-4, which he built on his sea chest while with the 1st Marine Air Wing in Korea. From there he progressed through a number of layouts, both HO and N (10 that he can recall, few of which were ever competed).

Being a corporate executive with a number of fortune 500 companies resulted in numerous transfers. This provided the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with many model railroaders all over the country. Stan says he never found one about which he couldn't find something to like. It also resulted in layouts being abandoned or left behind at several locations including Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Boston, Omaha and Pittsburgh.

When Stan retired to Ft. Myers, FL, model railroading was high on his list of objectives. A small work counter was squeezed into the utility room and an elaborate "pull down and fold out" layout was erected in the garage.

Then his wife Jeanne bought an HO-scale Santa Fe Super Chief train in photo-etched plated brass for Christmas and he realized it wouldn't negotiate the 24 in radius curves he had provided. This led to a new home with a Train Room in the air-conditioned area.

The theme for this (his current and last) layout is Santa Fe's Cajon Pass in California as of Oct. 1, 1951. This date was the first of numerous trips over Cajon Stan made and is in the transition period between steam and diesel. The layout is 10' x 35' and many of the items on the layout were AP projects.

He belongs to Scale Rails of S.W. Florida, a 100% NMRA Club, has served as Secretary and is currently Treasurer.

"It has been very rewarding over the last few years to inspire the Club to grow from a 'spit and gossip' train group of 14 people to a progressive 40-member organization which is hosting the Sunshine Region Convention this year and is in negotiations for the purchase of a permanent home," Stan said.

"Club interest in the AP program is high and many members are working on Golden Spikes and AP certificates."

He is also on the BOD of Sunshine Region and serves as its Secretary.

Stan believes the most rewarding part of earning MMR is the great friends that have been made. He remembers two MMR's he had dinner with at the St. Louis Convention. They convinced him to go for it and his objective now is to inspire others to take this challenging and exciting trip into the "real" world of model railroading.

"Hopefully I can provide assistance and help to others as so many have for me. I will be available always for those who want to experience this wonderful adventure," he said.

Stan holds AP certificates in Civil and Electrical Engineering, Chief Dispatcher, Scenery, Model Railroad Author, Associate Volunteer and Cars. Structures has been submitted for award and Official is 50 percent complete.